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HENRY CHARLES LEA.

(Read January 20, 1911.)

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

By WILLIAM W. KEEN, M.D., LL.D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

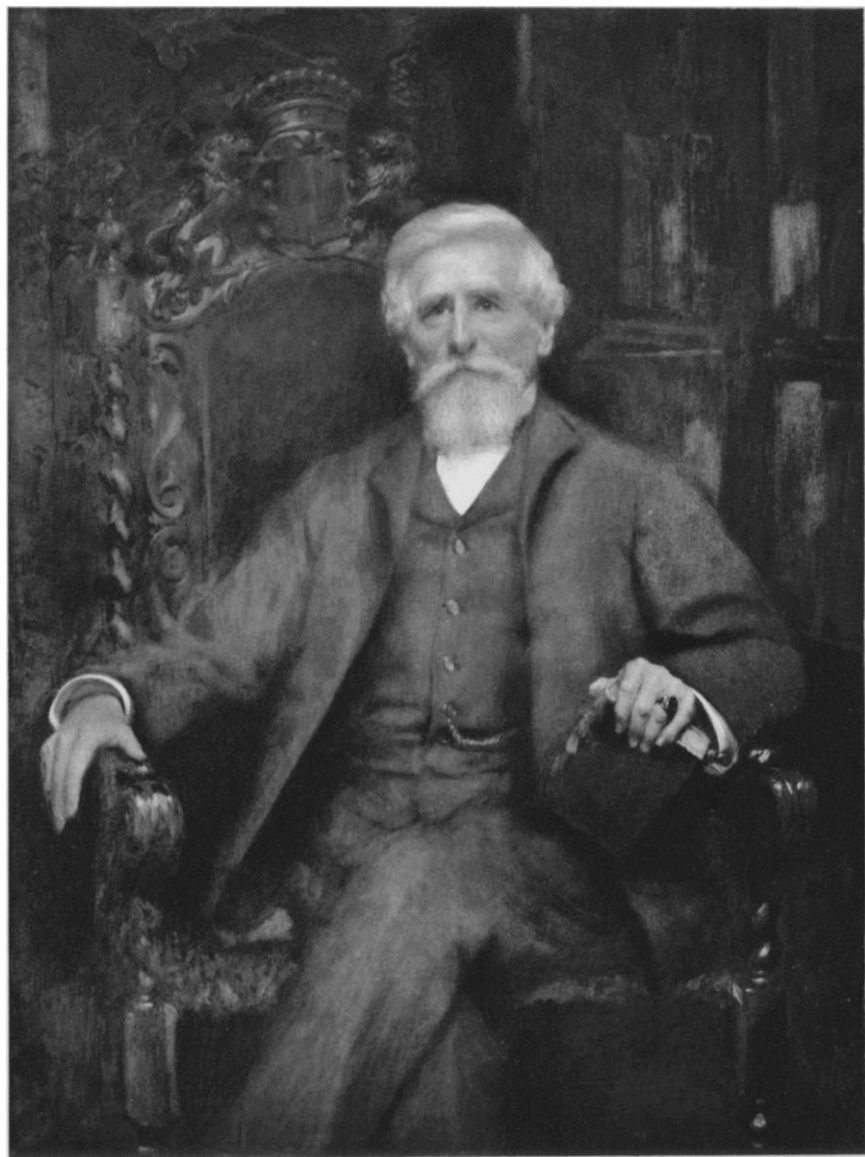
Members of the American Philosophical Society, Members and Representatives of the Library Company of Philadelphia, of the University of Pennsylvania, of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

In the days of Julius Cæsar and during the wars which followed his assassination, "Triumvirate" was a word very familiar to Roman citizens. But whether applied to the first or the second triumvirate it had a sinister meaning. Our own city, however, for many years has had an illustrious triumvirate of men who have been eminent in literature, science and civic life, Horace Howard Furness, S. Weir Mitchell and Henry Charles Lea. No other American city could boast three names comparable to these.

When one of these three, and such a man as Henry Charles Lea has passed away, it is fitting that his associates and the community at large should halt for an hour in our busy life and pay a tribute to his character and achievements.

The American Philosophical Society, of which he was an honored member, therefore suggested to the four other public institutions named with which Mr. Lea was associated by membership, and which had benefited by his active interest and generous support, that a joint meeting in memory of Mr. Lea should be held. The idea was most cordially received and a speaker representing each of these societies will share in the proceedings of the evening.

In addition to these distinguished local representatives, His Excellency, the Right Hon. James Bryce, the British Ambassador, has come from Washington especially to do honor to the memory of his fellow historian and friend.



Henry D. Lee.

Through the generosity of Mr. Lea's family, two portraits, one of Mr. Henry C. Lea, and the other of his father, Mr. Isaac Lea, will be presented to the American Philosophical Society.

As an illustration of the thoroughness with which Mr. Lea prepared for his work, I may cite the following little incident:

While spending the winter of 1907-8 in Rome I saw in an antiquarian bookstore a catalogue of books on Witchcraft, a subject in which I knew Mr. Lea was deeply interested and of which, though he was then eighty-three years old, he contemplated writing a full account. I sent the catalogue to him—a list of seventy or eighty titles—some of them very rare, and offered to aid him in securing any which he might wish to purchase. In reply I received a letter of thanks, but he declined my proffered assistance for the very good reason that he “already had all of them in his library.”

I have now the pleasure of introducing Edward P. Cheyney, Professor of European history in the University of Pennsylvania, and a co-worker with Mr. Lea, who will read a memoir on the Life and Works of Mr. Lea.